

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

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Alan Shinn, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadia Hawaii Residential Treatment
Center (Formerly Children's
Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Programs, Kaiser
Permanente Medical Care System

Aloha Pride Center

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Assistive Technology Resource Ctrs. of HI
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Kali Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kua'oua-Ha'ela Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kaliki Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Salvation Army Family Intervention Srva.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Srva.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

March 19, 2009

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator David Ige, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

Testimony Opposing HB 1642 Relating to the Purchases of Health and Human Services

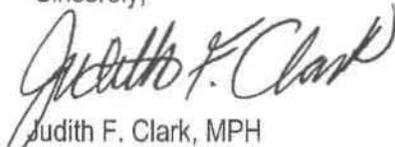
Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, opposes HB 1642 Relating to the Purchases of Health and Human Services.

This measure would require the State to develop licensing rules and regulations for all health and human services providers, regardless of the type of service offered and the practical need for licensing. Licensing requirements could significantly add to the cost of conducting business in the State of Hawaii.

The State of Hawaii awards contracts for a variety of services for youth and families through multiple provider agencies for which there currently are no state licensing requirements. This bill would greatly restrict the number of providers qualified to respond to a request for proposals as many current provider agencies would not qualify until they are properly licensed. Establishing a licensing system for all health and human service agencies could be very costly and not practical or prudent given the current economic situation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

To: The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

From: Laura Robertson, President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: March 20, 2009

Re: **Testimony opposed to H.B. 1642 HD1– Relating to the Purchases of Health and Human Services**

We oppose this bill in its current form for the following reasons:

- The bill requires that applicants of request for proposals under Chapter 103F would need to be duly licensed in the state to conduct the business being sought by the request for proposal. If this bill passes as written, any agency without a license would be ineligible to apply for Chapter 103F contracts.
- There is currently no mechanism in place for licensure and we believe it would take a long time in order to create such a mechanism, hampering our ability to continue to provide our current array of health and human services. The development of such a licensing system for all service agencies would be very costly and not practical or prudent given the current economic situation.
- An alternative might be for an applicant to hold accreditation from a national body such as CARF (The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) or COA (Council on Accreditation) in order to assure a service provider meets national set standards in service provision.

Since 1959, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii has provided small classes, on-the-job training, and placement services to fulfill our mission to put people back to work. Last year, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii served more than 9,400 individuals throughout the state in its career development and training programs and placed over 1,800 into jobs. It is our belief that any individual who wants to work should be able to work, and that work is a basic right that will assist people to attain other life goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS-HI

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"where 'ohana is more than a word"

March 19, 2009

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Fay Uyeda, Executive Director

SUBJECT: HB1642, RELATING TO THE PURCHASES OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Communities in Schools-Hi (CIS)strongly opposes House Bill 1642, House Draft I, and is extremely concerned about its negative impact on especially small private providers such as CIS who has nurtured some of the most committed and dedicated workers.

They come with years of learning what is needed for youth and families at-risk. They know the effectiveness of services even if many have not had formal institutional training although they have enabled many "professionals" to obtain their degrees. They have often been studied and provided countless research survies to determine what are the best practices.

Their context of learning has been through maneuvering countless services both helpful and harmful. The chasm that exist in those who would establish licensing requirements,rules , regulations are often persons who have limited field experience.

The history of many attempts to develop, fund,and support community models initiated by those who live and serve in the communities over the long haul is often a threat to those who come from an institutional and bureaucratic perspective.

The Office of Youth Services has sought a balance in providing accountability for providers while providing support for them to succeed. They have encouraged a wide representation of services often overlooked in the RFP process because of the time and expertise required.

If one was to evaluate where service dollars were going, the number of recipients were of a common pool of providers that had the expertise in grant writing and had

also developed relationships with the state office. It was almost predictable who would receive grant funding.

Accountability and integrity in services would be the only reason for licensing. If not, who does it benefit? Who can pay for the requirements in terms of time and personnel cost?

I invite policymakers as yourselves to not merely visit sites but shadow us for a week. Compare who and what work is being done. At what hours? At what cost?

I came out of the state system as did another co-worker. I was appalled to find how government has created ineffective industries in human service that have become self-serving.

Have you ever wondered why most programs and services occur from 8 or 9-4pm? What happens to the youth when they are done playing at the park or program? Do they go home to a nice family meal and everyone talks story of how their day went?

Are we so naïve that we funded midnight basketball to reduce crime? Do you see teenagers on your streets after midnight? We do. Where are the outreach workers to reach out and get these kids back to school, home?

Why are we having more problems with all aspects of human services and most definitely children, youth and families? If licensing is the answer and standard setting? Would we have so many failing schools?

Do we really believe that if we raise the pay and increase the requirements for organizations that we would see better results? I think not. In fact I know not.

Is licensing for control or management? We live in a time when we waste so much time in environments of distrust. Have you been to meetings where people dare to tell the truth? The manner in which government has provided services has been a problem. At a time when instability and growing acts of violence is increasing in our neighborhoods; when resources are becoming scarce; when people and communities need to support one another this bill makes absolutely no sense!

I am aware of how some members of this committee have been the champions of human services but I encourage you to look with a different set of lens. I suggest that all "licensing", research into effective services must include in its decision making body, at least 1/3 of former clients from targeted communities.

Who should know what expertise needs to be required? There is a huge chasm between what one learns in institutions and what one learns in the context of relationships that run across all levels. It is the island way.

My Masters Degree pales in the lessons and principles I learned from my family. From my neighborhood, my extended 'ohana. I end with this story of going to the University of Hawai'i and taking my first Sociology class.

We went on a field trip to learn about the demographics of Honolulu. The bus rode down Liliha Street. This is the community Senator Chun Oakland was raised in. But in the 60s it was different.

I loved growing up in Olona Lane, one of the old camps. I didn't know it was strange not to have a bathroom with a tub or shower. I didn't realize that the furo my dad built on the dirt ground was a luxury.

I didn't know how others looked upon my family and others. On that bus ride the professor pointed toward my home and said this is where the Economically and culturally disadvantaged people live. I wondered what and who he was talking about.

On that same tour , we swung by Palama Settlement. It holds fond memories for myself and thousands of others. I was in the Blue Fairy Club; learned swimming; had great Halloween parties; learned to play piano for a little while; become employed as a staff of the summer program;

The professor pointed out that this was where the economically and culturally disadvantaged kids came to recreate and socialize. He of course, pointed out Maryor Wright's Home as a high-risk area. What I thought? That's where my classmates and friends live?

So, I request that this Bill be held in committee and eliminate further burdening on providers who are struggling to serve the community with little or no support from the state.

Mahalo for allowing the opportunity for me to share my mana'o in the form of this testimony.

March 19, 2009

**Fay Uyeda, Executive Director
Aha Representative
Communities in Schools-Hi**